

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 11-13 and 15-20 are amended to further clarify the subject matter therein. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 9, 10 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over PCT/JP99/02956 to Segawa et. al.; and claims 7, 8, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Segawa and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,018 to Stewart. Please note that the Office Action relies on U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0032037 to Segawa as an English language interpretation of PCT/JP99/02956 which is in Japanese. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied references teach or suggest a service providing system or method that correlates "service to a virtual object which is data having spatial information, relating to shape and location, that is constructed on a computer ... ,," as recited in amended claim 1 and similarly recited in the independent claims 11, 12 and 15-20.

Instead, Segawa discloses when a terminal user enters a region where wireless communication is possible, communication channel information is obtained, and by using a

communication channel, the user accesses the information service. Thus, the system of Segawa merely provides a service assigned to a wireless communications station in a fixed manner, when a user enters a region where wireless communication is possible via the communication channel. Thus, in other words, Segawa provides service in real-world space which is a region where wireless communication is possible.

In contrast, the claimed system manages a virtual object which is data having spatial information, relating to shape and location, constructed on a computer, as recited in the independent claims.

Further, Segawa does not disclose the dynamic management, i.e., the creation, deletion and change of a virtual object and service, as recited in the independent claims. Instead, Segawa discloses an imaginary communication space is a region where wireless communication is possible in a real-world space. Because the space is imaginary, the spaces of Segawa can overlap each other. The claimed invention, however, provides flexible service based on the positional relationship of a moving body and the imaginary object defined in the memory of the computer. Thus, the object of Segawa cannot move within the space as in the claimed invention.

With regard to claim 3, Segawa does not disclose a management terminal that sends the object information stored in the storage device to the mobile member. Instead, Segawa discloses that when a terminal user enters a region where wireless communication is possible, the communication channel information is obtained, and by using the communication channel, the user has access to information services. In other words, communication processing is performed on an actual moving object.

Further, Segawa does not disclose "the management terminal sending the service information stored in the storage device to the mobile member in advance," as recited in claim 5. See, e.g., paragraph [0222].

Finally, Segawa does not disclose a system that "generates, deletes or updates the object information according to the content of the input performed by the input device," as recited in claim 6, and similarly recited in claims 12, 17 and 20. In other words, Segawa does not disclose the management of the virtual object, i.e., the creation, deletion, and update of a virtual object," corresponding to a service. Instead, Segawa merely discloses an object, i.e., comments on an electronic bulletin board provided by a specific service. Thus, Segawa does not disclose the management of the claimed virtual object that is created, deleted and updated corresponding to a service.

Accordingly, claims 1, 11, 12 and 15-20, and the claims dependent therefrom, are not rendered obvious by Segawa alone or in combination with Stewart. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 13, 2005

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